retired employees living near their Vidyalayas about the pension Adalat.

There is no question of making payment of TA/DA to the petitioner who attended the Pension Adalat. This was also made clear in the advertisement issued by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan. The retired persons come to these Adalats as petitioners for setting pending matters, they are not called on official duty.

**Open Basic Education Programme**

573. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry are ready to implement a specially designed Open Basic Education Programme as reported in the 'Times of India', New Delhi, dated 16th November, 1995;

(b) if so, the objectives of the OBE project and the number of States likely to be covered/benefited indicating curriculum laid down for the above Programmes and funds likely to be provided for the same during the year 1995-96 by the Central as well as concerned State Governments; and

(c) whether any special meeting on 15th November, 1995 was called by the Minister with C.Ms of States in New Delhi for an overview of the total literacy campaigns and if so, with what results.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION) (DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI): (a) and (b) A proposal to implement a project called 'Open Basic Education' has been received from National Open School (NOS). The objective is to provide educational opportunities to the neo-literates from Adult Education Programmes and early school drop-outs. The Operational details have not been finalised so far.

(c) Yes. The Minister of Human Resource Development held discussions with the Chief Ministers of six States on various issues including over-view of total literacy campaign. The meeting was held in New Delhi on 16.11.95. The objective of the meeting was to accelerate the literacy programme in these States. The success of literacy programme in the country hinges on its success in these 6 large States viz. U.P., M.P., Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar and Rajasthan.

During the meeting it was decided to draw-up a time-bound action plan for 'total literacy campaign' coverage of uncovered districts, increase motivation to volunteers, establish strong linkages between literacy campaigns and Panchayati Raj Institutions as well as between the literacy programme and other developmental programmes such as Pulse Polio Immunisation and other health programmes, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana etc. It was also decided to decentralise and delegate authority to the State Governments for implementation of literacy programmes. The Directorate of Adult Education under the Ministry is also proposed to be strengthened, so as to effectively monitor the programme.

**Havoc caused by floods**

574. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of AGRICUTLURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether floods had created havoc in some parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the areas in which the flood fury was the most and the action taken by Government to give relief to the people;

(c) whether the losses suffered by the people and the farmers has been assessed and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the amount of relief given to the individuals and the farmers;

(e) whether laxity has been shown by Government of Haryana in pumping out the flood water from Rohtak city; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c). According to information received from the State Governments and the assessment made by the Central Teams, Cyclones and floods from May, 1995 have affected 23 States in varying degrees claiming 2,327 lives, and damaging about 22 lakh houses and crops in an area of about 60.00 lakh ha. The extent of damage was particularly high in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Meghalaya, Orissa, Punjab and West Bengal. The relief measures undertaken by the State Governments include evacuation of marooned people, operation of relief camps, distribution of essential commodities and ensuring health care.

(d) The assistance/relief given to the affected people and farmers vary from State to State. A State Level Committee headed by the Chief Secretary decides the quantum of assistance to be provided to the different categories of people.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

**Encouragement to the use of Biological Manures**

575. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 4080 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th April, 1995 and state whether scientific studies have been made to estimate the loss of fertility of farm soil by the use of chemical fertilizers, if so, what are the findings and if not, whether such a study will be undertaken in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): Yes, Sir; under the aegis of All India Coordinated Research Project on Long Term Fertilizer Experiments of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, changes in soil fertility due to use of chemical fertilisers are being monitored since 1970. Most significant findings of this Project are as under:—

(i) Exclusive use of NP&K chemical fertilizers in intensively cropped areas has affected soil fertility by way of emergence of micro-nutrient deficiencies.

(ii) Continued use of nitrogenous fertilizers in acidic soils, without liming, leads to decline in productivity of soils.

(iii) Balanced and Integrated Use of Chemical Fertilizers and Organic Manure is necessary for increased crop productivity and sustainability of the soil resource base.

**125th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**

576. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what were the main highlights of the 125th Birth Anniversary of the Father of the Nation celebrated by the country;

(b) what are the main articles and places associated with his life preserved as heritage and what steps have been taken for preservation thereof; and

(c) whether the proposed installation of Mahatma Gandhi's statue at India Gate, New Delhi on 2nd October, 1995 was given up or postponed if so, in what circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF